



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION  
WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA OFFICE

Second Meeting of the AFI Message Handling System Implementation Task Force  
(AFI/AMHS/I/TF/2)  
(Dakar, Senegal, 30-31 May 2013)

**Agenda Item 4: Review of AFTN Performance**

(Presented by the secretariat)

SUMMARY
The purpose of this paper is to review the performances of AFTN in WACAF region.
<b>Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.</b>
<b>References :</b> Reports on AFI RAN/6 &7 Meetings; Reports on APIRG/17&18 Meetings <i>Note: References can be downloaded from <a href="http://www.icao.int/wacaf">www.icao.int/wacaf</a>.</i> The information contained in this paper comes primarily from inputs of some States/Organizations ( <i>ASECNA; GCAA –Ghana; NAMA; Roberts FIR; GCAA-Gambia, Morocco, South Africa</i> ) and from reports on missions to States.
<b>Related ICAO Strategic Objectives: A: Safety; B: Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</b>
<b>Related ICAO ASBU Blocks and Modules: B0-25 AIDC; B0-30 AIM; B0-105 MET</b>

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The AFI RAN/6 meeting recommended that States operating AFTN arrange for the monthly recording of circuits performance charts and for the exchange of completed forms between the stations concerned with copy to relevant ICAO Regional Office. The AFI/7 RAN meeting endorsed this recommendation. APIRG/16 under its Decision 16/12 tasked ICAO Regional Offices in Dakar and Nairobi to coordinate the conduct of regional surveys on AFS performance in order to ascertain that AFTN and ATS/DS continue to meet agreed performance requirements.

1.2 This task was achieved through regular states letters from regional Offices reminding Administrations and Organizations to implement this Decision.

**2. Discussion**

**2.1 Status of implementation of AFTN circuits in AFI region**

2.1.1 Since the last CNS/SG and , APIRG meetings, WACAF and ESAF States /Organizations have been implementing the pending AFI rationalized AFS-AFTN circuits by interconnecting sub satellite based regional networks (AFISNET, CAFSAT, NAFISAT and SADC2).

The remaining AFI planned circuits have been newly realized through satellite based technology to comply with the regional Plan.

2.1.2 Moreover in the aim to satisfying ATM new requirements involving new organization of airspace, bilateral circuits have been realized and were submitted to last APIRG meeting for consideration by the AFI Com chart

***So the rationalized AFI Plan achievement is now about to be completed as shown in Appendix A.***

## **2.2 Performances of AFTN**

2.2.1 The performance of AFTN within AFI region does not often comply everywhere with ICAO Annex X Vol 2 requirements.

The availability charts of the AFTN main circuits assessed during the VSAT networks management committees show that some rate of availability are under the requirements of AFI/RAN.

2.2.2 The new flight plan format, the requirements of RVSM space management and the automation of flight data processing including flight plan, the automation of AIS including NOTAM messages, recommend that States/Organizations continue their efforts to increase AFS AFTN performance in particular for those current failing circuits.

2.2.3 Due to the difficulties faced by the Regional Offices to collect the AFTN statistics from States APIRG/17 meeting under its Conclusion 17/14 and 17/15 called for the establishment of a regional Data Base for the collection of AFTN statistics data and the automation of their analysis. These conclusions 17/15 read as follows:

### **CONCLUSION 17/14: AFTN MONTHLY STATISTICAL DATA**

That, States which have not done so, follow up on and implement **Recommendation 9/4 of AFI/7 (Performance of AFTN Circuits)** and **Decision 16/12 of APIRG/16 (Follow up of the performances of the aeronautical fixed service)** by forwarding to the Regional Offices the AFTN Monthly Statistics (missing flight plans status, transit time statistics).

### **CONCLUSION 17/15: DEVELOPMENT OF AN AFTN DATABASE**

That:

- a) States provide AFTN centers with statistics software for the automation of AFTN data collection; and
- b) ICAO develops a secured data base to facilitate web-based electronic compilation of AFTN statistical data collection and monitoring.

2.2.4 The implementation of AMHS will require the automation of AFS data collection and monitoring.

For the transition period it should be advisable to automate the collection of AFTN statistics data through AFI AFS circuits. These data will feed the AFTN/AMHS gateway.

## **3. Action by the meeting:**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the above information
- b) Urge States which do not submit AFTN performance charts to meet the above recommendation to ensure that the information provided is relevant.
- c) Implement APIRG 17 Conclusion 17/14 and 17/15, in the framework of ATSMH implementation in AFI region.



APPEDIX A

Status of AFTN Circuits implementation in WACAF area

StateName	Requirements	Facilities or Services	Description of Deficiency	Date first reported	Comments on Deficiency	Description of Corrective action	Executing Body	Target date for implementation	Priority
<i>Algeria</i>									
	AFTN Plan, AFI Rec. 9/7	Algiers AFTN Centre	Main circuit Algiers/Niamey	1998	Unreliable	Implemented	Algeria, ASECNA		U
<i>Congo</i>									
	AFTN Plan, AFI Rec. 9/7	Brazzaville AFTN centre	Circuit Brazzaville/Luanda	1998	Not implemented	Implemented	ASECNA, Angola		A
	AFTN Plan, AFI Rec. 9/7	Brazzaville AFTN centre	Main circuit Brazzaville/Johannesburg	1998	All traffic to/from Southern Africa is hindered	Implemented	ASECNA, South Africa		U
	AFTN Plan, AFI Rec. 9/7	Brazzaville AFTN centre	Main circuit Brazzaville/Nairobi	1998	VSAT circuit and 50-baud leased circuit being discussed.	Implemented	ASECNA, Kenya		U
	AFTN Plan, AFI Rec. 9/7	Brazzaville AFTN centre	Circuit Brazzaville/Sao Tome	1998	VSAT planned	Implemented	ASECNA, Sao Tome & Principe		U
<i>Equatorial Guinea</i>									
	AFTN Plan, AFI Rec. 9/7	Malabo AFTN centre	Circuit Malabo/Bata	2001	Bata has no AFTN connection	Implemented	ASECNA	2003	U
<i>Madagascar</i>									
	AFTN Plan, AFI Rec. 9/7	Antananarivo AFTN centre	Circuit Antananarivo/Dzaoudzi	1996	Not implemented	Implemented	ASECNA, Comoros		A
	AFTN Plan, AFI Rec. 9/7	Antananarivo AFTN centre	Circuit Antananarivo/Johannesburg	2002	Not implemented	Implemented	ASECNA, South Africa		U

<i>StateName</i>	<i>Requirements</i>	<i>Facilities or Services</i>	<i>Description of Deficiency</i>	<i>Date first reported</i>	<i>Comments on Deficiency</i>	<i>Description of Corrective action</i>	<i>Executing Body</i>	<i>Target date for implementation</i>	<i>Priority</i>
<i>Niger</i>									
	AFTN Plan, AFI Rec. 9/7	Niamey AFTN centre	Main circuit Niamey/Algiers	1998	Unreliable	Implemented	ASECNA, Algeria	2002	U
<i>Sao Tome &amp; Principe</i>									
	AFTN Plan, AFI Rec. 9/7	Sao Tome AFTN centre	Circuit Sao Tome/Brazzaville	1998	VSAT planned	Implemented	Sao Tome & Principe, ASECNA		U
<i>Senegal</i>									
	AFTN Plan, AFI Rec. 9/7	Dakar AFTN centre	Circuit Dakar/Bissau	1998	Not implemented	Implemented	ASECNA, Guinea Bissau		U
<i>South Africa</i>									
	AFTN Plan, AFI Rec. 9/7	Johannesburg AFTN centre	Main circuit Johannesburg/Brazzaville	1998	All traffic to/from Southern Africa is hindered	Implemented	South Africa, ASECNA		U
	AFTN Plan, AFI Rec. 9/7	Johannesburg AFTN centre	Circuit Johannesburg/Antananarivo	2002	Not implemented	Implemented	South Africa, ASECNA		U